



Pathways

Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths. Ps. 25:4

A Newsletter for Holden Christian Academy

September 12, 2013

Principal's Corner

Dear friends,

There is much joy and excitement at HCA this year. We are off to a wonderful beginning. Why do I report this? Let me count the ways...so far.

1. We've just begun our 20th school year and praise God for His faithfulness to us! **Save May 31st on your calendars right now for a huge HCA 20th birthday bash!**
2. We prayed diligently that God would bring the students He was calling to HCA and provide a way for them to attend.
3. We started this year with 123 students, last year was 103! WOW!
4. Our new students have fit right into the HCA family and have big smiles in the hallways!
5. God has placed HCA on the heart of a family we don't know. They are sending us a special designated gift. The call is a direct answer to a specific prayer for a specific situation. He knows all, why do we worry?
6. We have an amazing team of qualified, enthusiastic, and godly educators and staff who all consider themselves to be called here and answered that call with joy.
7. Our entire faculty and staff are not only effective co-workers but friends and siblings in Christ. We work hard, appreciate and love one another, and have a lot of fun together!
8. Our new staff positions have been filled and the new staff members are excited, finding their ways, and only a little bit overwhelmed.
9. All the classrooms from 3rd-8th grade had a makeover this summer and the results are stunning. Come and see next Thursday at 7:00 during **Parent Night!**
10. Our **Parent/Teacher Council** has already met, has lots of new faces, and has fantastic plans to help HCA this year. They are such a blessing to us.
11. Students have been using the outdoor classroom and harvesting all kinds of things from the school garden. Everyday someone reports a new insect, flower, animal, tree or bird. The excitement is contagious! (Please send in photos for our bulletin board.)

12. A parent who was totally threatened by the Nature Scavenger Hunt reported that she is noticing birds now, even on vacation! Success!!

13. A staff member, who hated dirt, took a job in a greenhouse (go figure) and reported being awed by the growth, calmed by the environment, and feels closer to God while she's there.

14. HCA was the host of Mass. Agriculture in the Classroom's first summer conference in July. We had a blessed time with teachers from all over New England. They LOVED our Food for Life Program, garden and outdoor classroom! We've been asked to present again at their fall conference.

I could go on for hours but I do want you to read the rest of this issue as well. In closing, I sense the Lord's pleasure here. This truly is His school, filled with His people, for His reasons and we know that His plans are good! We are blessed and thankful to God for His faithfulness. Our prayer is that we can respond with obedience to Him this year in all that we do. We want to do His job His way!

Joyfully in Him,

Susan Hayward, Principal

Parents' Night September 19 at 7 p.m.



Please mark your calendars and join us at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 19.

Please do not bring children to this event. We love your kids but this night is for you!

We will be sharing a preview of coming attractions for this year, and you will have a chance to visit teachers in their classrooms, see some of your child's work, and meet other HCA parents. We will also be handing out updated calendars and school directories.

We look forward to seeing you. Please call the office at 508-829-4418 or email info@holdenchristianacademy.org if you have any questions.

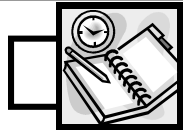
Our Mission ~

To challenge children to a lifetime of learning, working in partnership with families, to integrate Biblical truth with academic pursuits.

Holden Christian Academy

508-829-4418

www.holdenchristianacademy.org



HCA Calendar

September 16	School Committee 7 p.m.
September 18	1-3 p.m. Brain Gym for teachers, parents welcome
September 19	Parents' Night 7 p.m.
September 20	Team A Field Trip, Brookfield Orchards
Sept. 23 and 24	Child ID Event (see flyer attached)
September 25	See You at the Pole, 8:30 a.m.
September 27	Food for Life cookbook recipes due
Sept. 30-Oct. 4	Spiritual Emphasis Week
October 1	Parent Teacher Council 3 p.m.
October 10	Family Fellowship evening
October 14	NO SCHOOL—Columbus Day
October 17-18	NO SCHOOL—Development Day, ACSI Conference; office open.
October 17-18	Parent "work day" at HCA
October 25	NO SCHOOL—Term 2 Development Day
November 8	Term 1 ends
May 31	Save the date! HCA 20th birthday party!

Fridays: ice cream sales after lunch, \$1 each, starts Sept. 27.

PRAYER (Psalm 68:19)

- For HCA family members dealing with illness, that they will be healed in God's timing, hear God's wisdom for treatment, and are comforted and encouraged through Christ in all of us.
- That God would make a way for families who struggle to pay their tuition, as they trust in His provision, whether it be through employment or surprising, unexpected ways.

PRAISE & THANK YOU

- Praise God for the opportunity for this new school year, HCA's 20th year serving Him, learning about Him, and worshipping Him.
- Thank you to anonymous donors supporting HCA students, who believe that "you can't out-give God!"

School Service Opportunities

Please call the office at 508-829-4418 or send in a note if you can help.

- Team A Gym helper, Thursdays 1-2:30 p.m.
- Set up for Parent Night
- Recess Monitors

There will be opportunities to sign up for these school service areas and others on Parents' Night, September 19.

Parent Teacher Council The Parent Teacher Council had their first meeting of the year this week and are already busy with plans and activities for this school year! You are invited to join them at 3 p.m on the first Tuesday of the month in the Media Center. Childcare is provided. Come once or to all! If you have questions, email Alison Graham at marchofdimesmom@gmail.com, or Shana Piuz at gr8skin4you@yahoo.com.

They are looking to organize an HCA parent work day while the teachers are at the ACSI conference on October 17-18. They will be sending out more information soon, but you can mark your calendars now! Some of the projects might include painting, weeding the playground, and deep cleaning the classrooms.

Student Council On Wednesday, September 25 at 8:30 a.m., the 8th Grade Student Council members will be participating in a global prayer event called "See You at the Pole." The students of HCA will be gathering at 8:30 a.m. on the playground field surrounding a flagpole and will be encouraged to pray for our school and students worldwide. All parents and families are welcome to join us. For more information about this global event, visit www.syatp.org.

Volunteer Driver information There were several questions from parents filling out the Volunteer Driver form, regarding the insurance amounts required. Massachusetts does not require such high liability limits, although ACSI and most insurance agents do recommend these amounts.

If you will be driving students for electives, field trips, etc., please check with your insurance agent to find out if you have 1) \$100,000 liability per person for bodily injury;

- (2) \$300,000 liability per incident for bodily injury for all vehicle occupants; and
- (3) \$50,000-\$100,000 liability for property damage.

One of our parents who had minimal coverage found out that it will only cost their family \$97 per year to raise their liability coverage to HCA's required amounts.

Classroom Happenings... Spanish K-6 ~ Hola! Greetings from Senora Gillon in the Spanish room! I have had a wonderful first few weeks getting reacquainted with the returning students and greeting the excited new faces! This is my third year teaching Spanish for grades K-6 here at HCA and can see it will be my best year so far:). Decorating my room with Spanish labels and information, organizing every aspect of my teaching role, and speaking even more Spanish than before, I am ready for all the blessings God has to offer me.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR TERM 1: Kindergarten: We will be getting to know each other and the basics of what it is like to learn a new language through singing, children's literature, and art. Grades 1-4: We will be learning about Spain's culture, and making a passport to "take with them" on their travels. **THIS YEAR 5th and 6th HAVE SPANISH TWICE A WEEK! QUE BUENO!**

Grade 5: We will be learning greetings, introductions, the culture of Spain, and have their first taste of Spanish grammar.

Grade 6: We will be reviewing how to tell time in Spanish, taking another step into grammar by using "ser" and "estar", and learning about the culture of Spain. **Gracias y hasta pronto! Senora Gillon**



Classroom Happenings

Team A ~ Grades K-2

Team A is getting into full swing! To begin our culture studies, it is important for Team A students to understand that they live in America and what American culture is. They can then make comparisons during our studies of China, Israel, Kenya, and Brazil.

I'm sure many of the children are REALLY tired at the end of the school day. It's quite an adjustment. The teachers are tired too!

We are looking for someone to assist Mrs. Anderholm with Team A gym classes on Thursday afternoon from 1:00 to 2:30. Please call the office if you can help out! THANK YOU!

As Mrs. Hayward suggested, NOW is the time to complete the flower piece of the Nature Scavenger hunt. The entire project is due at the end of the term. (Grades 1 and 2)

Look for your child's Apple Orchard permission slip going home tomorrow. We need chaperones for our trip next Friday, Sept. 20. Hope you can join us!

We covet your prayers and your partnership in educating your FABulous kids! God Bless! ~Mrs. Caron

Team C ~ Grades 5 & 6 The 5th and 6th graders are off to a great start! The students are working hard to get acclimated to things upstairs. In science we have begun to look at all things maps in order to help with our studies of biomes and weather. We will begin looking at weather factors in depth, making our own weather instruments when we can, and keeping a record of weather patterns as we observe them. From the garden, we will be making pickles by a process called lacto-fermentation. Once last season's crops are preserved, we are hoping to plant our fall crop of cabbages, beets, lettuce and kale. It will be exciting to grow some of the same vegetables that are common to Russia, the country we are studying!

5th grade has been familiarizing themselves with using their planners, and moving from class to class. Their new routine and procedures can be a little overwhelming to start, but in time they will be tracking. They are doing a good job so far. Harry Wong has stated in his book *First Days* that it is well worth taking plenty of time to establish classroom procedures at the beginning of the year, so that you can have more effective learning take place for the rest of the year.

Already, we have had some great learning take place. We have had some fantastic discussions in our Cultures class regarding worldviews and the questions people ask all over the world. In fact, while discussing origins, one student asked why God didn't make us so that we wouldn't sin.

We also took class outside, and used the outdoor classroom for our Food For Life lesson on staple crops. (I am a native California girl, and will take every opportunity to be outside when the weather is nice.)

Speaking of outside, how are those Nature Scavenger Hunt projects coming along? I started displaying some of my finds on the class bulletin board. If you have questions about the project please send me note.

You can check on your 5th graders progress and send me a message via Engradepro.com. Your password information was sent home in the boomerang folders. Please feel free to send me an email if you did not receive this information.

I would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to students who celebrated birthdays recently: Sam 8/8, Olivia 8/26, Kyle, Kaitlyn and Cassie 8/28 (yes, they all have the same birthday,) and Matthew L 9/11.

By His Grace, Mrs. Torres

Team B ~ Grades 3 & 4 What a wonderful start to the new year. We have been working hard in 4th grade...talking about what's in store for our study of India, other cultures' worldviews versus a Biblical worldview, building on our knowledge of place values, biomes around the world compared to ours, & we have been assigned our first book for our first book discussion next Thursday.

We were able to drain about 4 cups of worm tea from our compost. Feel free to add to our worm bin. They love watermelon, veggie, & fruit scraps (cut into tiny bits) as well as eggshells.

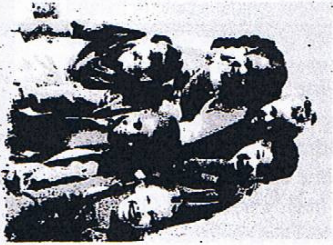
I thank God everyday for the privilege to spend the day with your children. I love them! Looking forward to seeing you at Parent's Night :) ~ Mrs. Reed

Team D ~ Grades 7 & 8 We are off to a great start in Grade 7! God is at work and it is my privileged to be a part of His plan. I am extremely excited to see what God has in store for us this school year. In Language Arts, we dove right into reading novels within the first week of school: *Seedfolks* (7/8) and *Project Mulberry* (6). Both give us great opportunity to integrate *Culture, Food for Life, and Language Arts*. Additionally, each Team D student submitted a writing assignment, reflecting on this past summer. The responses were precious and inspiring. I am reminded of just how unique God made each one of us. We are blessed to have each student the Lord has sent to us. Looking forward to a awesome school year! Blessings to you all! ~ Mrs. Campbell

We are off to a strong start in Grade 8. The students have settled into their new routine and we have hit the ground running... running right to the garden. We have had fun harvesting the "fruits of our Spring labor" and have enjoyed kale chips and a batch of fresh salsa. We used our harvested wheat to learn how to use our microscopes and got a very close look at wheat berries. Next we'll be exploring whole grain products vs. refined grain.

In terms 1 & 2 we are studying weather and biomes, and will apply this knowledge as we explore different weather across the globe tying into our Culture studies. In Cultures we're exploring the world map and what defines Culture. Next week we'll dive into a look at the Asian Culture and focus in on Thailand (7) and the Philippines (8). I am thrilled to be back with our students, to welcome many new ones into the fold and I am looking forward to a fabulous year together. ~ Mrs. Holgate

FREE Child ID Event



Monday, September, 23rd
9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
Tuesday, September 24th
8:00 A.M. -11:00AM
HCA Preschool
279 Reservoir st.
Holden MA
FREE ADMISSION

What it is all about...

A New York Life agent will work with you to put together a child ID CD* that includes a digital photo and fingerprints of your child. This CD gathers important information that is of great help to police in an emergency, in one easy-to-store format.

Neither New York Life, nor any other person or organization will retain the information or use copies of the child ID CD created for you.

*To participate, each child must be accompanied by a parent/guardian

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Your Family, And Your Future.**

For more information, please contact New York Life. Call [Agent Phone] or visit www.newyorklife.com/boston



Attention HCA Families!

We are looking for any and all
healthy recipes
to include in our first ever

HCA Food for Life Cookbook!

Recipes should fit into the following categories:

- Appetizers & Beverages
- Soups & Salads
- Vegetables & Side Dishes
- Main Dishes
- Breads
- Desserts
- This & That

It is our hope that each family can submit a few favorite healthy recipes from their collection to make this a fantastic cookbook available just in time for the holidays!

Please submit recipes to Christine O'Brien, either via email at cmobrien0503@gmail.com or send them in with your child marked "Food for Life Cookbook".

PLEASE SUBMIT BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th!!!